



MARTHA BRADLEY EVANS
Center for Teaching Excellence

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

ETHNC 2590 Pacific Islander American Experiences
Spring 2025

Course Description

This course introduces the cultural framework of the diverse peoples of the Pacific and their contemporary experiences in the United States. This course investigates the adaptation of basic factors in the historical, geographical, sociocultural, and political contexts of their American experiences.

3 credit hours

Pre-requisites: none

This course meets Diversity requirement for Baccalaureate Degree Requirements.

This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.

Course Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Accurately and confidently map the Pacific region
- Understand the colonial and imperial histories that shape the contemporary political, social and cultural understandings of the Pacific
- Analyze issues relating to the Pacific and communicate their knowledge and insights in a range of formats including but not limited to written, oral, visual, or performative formats

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (10%)

Weekly assignments due prior to first class of each week, students get to choose 9 from 13 weeks to write about (27%)

In-class mapping test (5%)

Reading presentation (8%)

Assignment 1: Reflection essay (20%)

CHOOSE EITHER A OR B OPTION FOR FINAL PROJECT

OPTION A: Research essay

Assignment 2a: Annotated bibliography, 1000 words (10%)

Assignment 3a: Research essay, 1500 words (20%)

OPTION B: Creative project

Assignment 2b: Creative project proposal, 800 words (10%)

Assignment 3b: Creative project (20%)

Grading Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D

University Policies

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the ADA Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at: <https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>

Preliminary Course Schedule

Date	Topic/Discussion	Due Dates
Week 1	Course Introduction and Syllabus/Schedule Review	No assignments due
Week 2	Key Concepts	Weekly assignment due 1/12
Week 3	Key Processes	Weekly assignment due 1/19
Week 4	Representations of the Pacific	Weekly assignment due 1/26
Week 5	Pacific Islands Studies	Weekly assignment due 2/2 In-class mapping test 2/3
Week 6	Geopolitics of the Pacific	Weekly assignment due 2/9
Week 7	Geopolitics of the Pacific	Weekly assignment due 2/16 Reflection essay due 2/21
Week 8	Contemporary Pacific Migration	Weekly assignment due 2/23
Week 9	Activism	Weekly assignment due 3/2 Annotated bibliography and creative project proposals due 3/7
Week 10	SPRING BREAK	No assignments due
Week 11	Pacific Islanders and sport	Weekly assignment due 3/16
Week 12	Creative arts	Weekly assignment due 3/23
Week 13	Media	Weekly assignment due 3/30
Week 14	Literature and education	Weekly assignment due 4/6
Week 15	Final Projects	Weekly assignment due 4/13 Extra credit due 4/14

Week 16	Independent work on final projects	Final projects due 4/28
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